

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 SS-14 NSC-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01

T-03 OMB-01 RSR-01 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 /107 W

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R 191533 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8114

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 2188

HELSINKI FOR MPT DELEGATION

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR

SUBJECT: EBAN VISIT TO AUSTRIA

REF: VIENNA 2065

1. FONFOFF SOURCES INDICATE THAT GOA IS, ON WHOLE, PLEASED THAT VISIT TO AUSTRIA BY ISRAELI FONMIN ABBA EBAN WENT SO WELL. AUSTRIANS HAD, OF COURSE, BEEN GREATLY CONCERNED OVER THE PROBLEM OF INSURING PERSONAL SAFETY OF EBAN AND WERE GREATLY RELIEVED WHEN VISIT WAS COMPLETED WITHOUT ANY SORT OF SECURITY INCIDENT. ONLY UNPLEASATNESS OCCURRED WHEN EBAN REFERRED IN PRESS CONFERENCE TO LEBANON AS " WORLD' S MOST UNCIVILIZED COUNTRY".

2. IN SUBSTANTIVE TALKS, AUSTRIAN FONMIN KIRCHSCHLAEGER WAS MOST IMPRESSED BY APPARENT AURA OF OPTIMISM EXUDED BY EBAN. EBAN EXPLAINED TO AUSTRIANS THAT THE PREDOMINANT TREND TODAY IS IN
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DIRECTION OF NEGOTIATION AND DETENTE AND THAT ARAB- ISRAELI DISPUTE MUST INEVITABLE FALL IN WITH THIS TREND. IF INDOCHINA WAR CAN BE SOLVED THROUGH NEGOTIATION BY PARTIES WHO DO NOT RECOGNIZE EACH OTHER DIPLOMATICALLY, HE FELT THAT ARAB- ISRAELI DISPUTE IS CERTAINLY SUSCEPTIBLE TO SIMILAR SOLUTION. EBAN IS CONFIDENT THAT TIME IS ON SIDE OF ISRAEL.

3. AUSTRIANS WERE MUCH TAKEN ABACK BY EBAN' S PUBLIC CRITICISM OF LEBANON AS " WORLD' S MOST UNCIVILIZED STATE" AND " CENTER OF TERROR". AT AIRPORT FAREWELL CEREMONY, FONMIN KIRCHSCHLAEGER TOOK OCCASION TO EXPRESS SURPRISE THAT EBAN SHOULD CRITICIZE A THIRD COUNTRY WHILE ON VISIT TO NEUTRAL AUSTRIA. EBAN TOLD KIRCHSCHLAEGER THAT HE HAD NOT MEANT TO " OFFEND" GOL BY HIS STATEMENT.

4. ALMOST PERFUNCTORILY, EBAN RAISED MATTER OF NAZI PERSECUTEES FROM AUSTRIA NOW LIVING IN ISREAL WHO HAVE NEVER BEEN ADEQUATELY COMPENSATED. WHILE AUSTRIANS AND ISRAELIS AGREE THAT GOS HAS NO LEGAL OBLIGATION, KIRCHSCHLAEGER PROMISED TO SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS. HUMES

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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